

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DHA-02 /088 W

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P R 050959Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3637

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22648

GENEVA FOR MEP DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR PLO XF LE

SUBJECT: PLO OFFICIAL VISITS PARIS; FRENCH HUMANITARIAN
APPEAL UNDER CONSIDERATION

1. PLO POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER SAID KAMAL, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN FRANCE, CALLED ON QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL COURCEL ON AUGUST 2 AND AGAIN AUGUST 3, SUBSEQUENTLY HAVING A 15 MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES. ACCORDING TO QUAI ACTING DIRECTOR FOR THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA HENRI SERVANT, KAMAL'S PRIMARY MOTIVE IN COMING HERE WAS TO REFURBISH THE PLO'S BADLY TARNISHED IMAGE BY SHOWING THAT THE PLO STILL HAS FRIENDS ON WHOM IT CAN RELY IN FRANCE. KAMAL
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ASKED THE FRENCH TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO OPEN A DIALOGUE

AMONG LEBANESE FACTIONS BY CONVENING A ROUND TABLE UNDER PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS AND WANTED THE FRENCH TO MAKE A STATEMENT FAVORING THE PROPOSAL AND AGAIN OFFERING PARIS AS A SITE.

2. SERVANT SAID THAT THE FRENCH DEMURRED FROM MAKING ANY STATEMENT, PROMISED TO STUDY KAMAL'S REQUEST TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THEY MIGHT DO, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT CONDITIONS ARE RIPE FOR ANY FRENCH INITIATIVE. THE FRENCH ALSO EMPHASIZED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE SYRIAN-PLO AGREEMENT WAS USEFUL AND SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND LEAD TO AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE. SARKIS, THE FRENCH SAID, CAN DO NOTHING UNTIL THERE IS AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT, SERVANT CONTINUED, TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE PLO WHEN ITS FORTUNES ARE LOW. THE FRENCH STILL BELIEVE THAT NO SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST IS POSSIBLE IF THE PALESTINIANS ARE NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. PERHAPS THE PLO MADE MISTAKES IN LEBANON AND ARAFAT SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUT OF LEBANESE AFFAIRS. BUT ARAFAT HEADS THE LARGEST, STRONGEST, MOST HIGHLY STRUCTURED, NON-IDEOLOGICALLY BOUND ELEMENT OF THE PLO, AND THE FATAH, EVEN WITHOUT HIM, WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE RALLYING POINT FOR ALMOST ALL SHADES OF PALESTINIAN OPINION. IT WOULD BE A GROSS ERROR, SERVANT CONCLUDED, TO UNDERESTIMATE THE PLO'S PACITY TO MAKE A COMEBACK.

4. FINALLY, SERVANT NOTED THAT THE UK WAS ABOUT TO ISSUE A UNILATERAL HUMANITARIAN APPEAL ON LEBANON. HE SAID THE FRENCH BELIEVE THAT THE JOINT US-UK-FRENCH STATEMENT WHICH THE UK HAD PROPOSED WOULD GIVE RISE TO A NEGATIVE PUBLIC INTERPRETATION. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH ARE STILL STUDYING THE ADVISABILITY OF MAKING A PARALLEL APPEAL.
GAMMON

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